

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 0784

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, NATO, ASEC

SUBJ: ECONADS: SUGGESTED PROCEDURE FOR DECLASSIFICATION OF
ECONADS DOCUMENTS

REF: USNATO 639 AND 645, STATE 29596

SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE QUOTES A NOTE FROM CHAIRMAN BILLY OUTLINING
SUGGESTED PROCEDURES TO FACILITATE THE PREPARATION OF UNCLASSIFIED
VERSIONS OF CLASSIFIED ECONOMIC COMMITTEE DOCUMENTS. IT WOULD
REQUIRE, WHERE POSSIBLE, A PRELIMINARY PARAGRAPH-BY-PARAGRAPH
INDICATION OF CLASSIFICATION OF NATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS, AND AN
INDICATION BY EXPERTS PARTICIPATING IN ECONADS MEETINGS OF
THE PORTIONS OF THEIR COMMENTS WHICH MIGHT BE CONSIDERED
UNCLASSIFIED.

ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON VIEWS ON THE FEASIBILITY OF BILLY'S
SUGGESTION. END SUMMARY.

1. QUOTED BELOW IS THE TEXT OF A MEMORANDUM, ED/76/29, SENT BY
CHAIRMAN BILLY TO MEMBERS OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE WITH A
SUGGESTION TO FACILITATE THE PREPARATION OF UNCLASSIFIED VERSIONS
OF ECONADS DOCUMENTS STEMMING FROM CLASSIFIED NATIONAL
CONTRIBUTIONS OF CLASSIFIED EXPERTS' MEETINGS. SEPTELS, CITING
THE MISSION'S TELEGRAMS REFERENCED ABOVE, DEAL WITH THE
SPECIFIC PAPERS PRESENTLY UNDER REVIEW. BEGIN TEXT:

THE COMMITTEE HAS RECENTLY EXAMINED A NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS(1)

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THE CONTENTS OF WHICH, AFTER SOME MODIFICATION, WILL RECEIVE A
WIDER CIRCULATION THAN THEIR PRESENT ONE WHICH IS LIMITED BY
THEIR DEGREE OF CLASSIFICATION. THE QUESTION HAS ARISEN WHEN

THE COMMITTEE EXAMINED THIS MATTER AS TO WHICH PROCEDURE WOULD BE THE MOST APPROPRIATE.

2. IN THIS CONNECTION, DOCUMENT C-M(64)114 DATED 185# NOVEMBER 1964, GIVES ALL THE NECESSARY GUIDELINES. IT CONSISTS OF A REPORT BY THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE ON "THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE REPORTS BY THE COMMITTEE OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES AND ON THE ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES OF THE LATTER IN THE DEVELOPING NATIONS". THE PROCEDURE IT SETS OUT WAS APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL ON 2ND DECEMBER, 1964 (SEE C-R(64)52, ITEM III).

3. DURING ITS MEETING THE COUNCIL GAVE A CLEAR MANDATE TO THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE WHICH ENABLES IT, WHERE APPROPRIATE:

(A) TO ESTABLISH AND BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF GOVERNMENTS, TEXTS WHICH MAY BE PUBLICLY RELEASED;

(B) TO INVITE THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND CULTURAL RELATIONS TO FURNISH GOVERNMENTS WITH ANY ADVICE THEY MAY WISH TO GIVE ON THE USE OF SUCH TEXTS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES.

4. MANY SUBJECTS EXAMINED BY THE COMMITTEE ARE OF A NATURE WHICH MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE TO RELEASE THEM PUBLICLY; ON THE OTHER HAND OTHERS SHOULD RECEIVE THE WIDEST POSSIBLE CIRCULATION. AS THE COMMITTEE WILL RECALL, THE COUNCIL REQUESTED SUCH A DISTRIBUTION IN THE CASE OF A REPORT ON COMMUNIST AID TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, WHILE THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE THOUGHT IT DESIRABLE THAT THE REPORTS ON THE SITUATION OF THE SOVIET AGRICULTURE AND ON INFLATION IN THE SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE SHOULD ALSO BE MADE KNOWN TO THE PUBLIC. INDEED, SUCH STUDIES ATTEMPT TO DESCRIBE OBJECTIVELY CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES OF COMMUNIST COUNTRIES WHICH ARE EITHER NOT VERY WELL KNOWN OR PRESENTED IN A DISTORTED MANNER.

5. IN THESE THREE CASES, HOWEVER, THE DRAFTING OF THE "EXPURGATED" VERSIONS HAS HAD TO BE POSTPONED AS IT WAS NECESSARY TO REQUEST, A POSTERIORI, THE EXPERTS IN THE CAPITALS TO INDICATE THOSE PARTS OF THE REPORTS WHICH MUST REMAIN CLASSIFIED.

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6. IN ORDER TO SPEED UP IN THE FUTURE THE PRODUCTION OF TEXTS ESTABLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN IN C-M(64)114, THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MIGHT WISH TO DECIDE TO PROCEED IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER:

(I) WHEN THE COMMITTEE AGREES TO STUDY A SPECIFIC QUESTION IT DECIDES AT THE SAME TIME, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS MANDATE, WHETHER THE RESULTS OF THIS STUDY SHOULD BE MADE KNOWN TO THE PUBLIC AND WHETHER, TO THIS END, A SPECIAL NON-CLASSIFIED TEXT SHOULD BE PREPARED;

(II) IN THE AFFIRMATIVE, THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE INVITE

THE NATIONAL EXPERTS WHO PROVIDE THE ECONOMIC DIRECTORATE WITH THE BASIC DOCUMENTATION, TO SPECIFY THE DIFFERENT DEGREES OF CLASSIFICATION OF THE DATA COMMUNICATED, AS WELL AS THE CLASSIFICATION THEY WISH TO PLACE ON THEIR OWN CONCLUSIONS. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT EACH DOCUMENT, AS SUCH, WILL BE GIVEN THE SAME CLASSIFICATION AS THAT APPLICABLE TO THE MOST SENSITIVE INFORMATION CONTAINED THEREIN;

(III) FOR ITS PART, THE ECONOMIC DIRECTORATE WILL PROCEED SIMILARLY IN THE LIGHT OF THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE DATA USED;

(IV) AFTER APPROVAL OF THE REPORT (IN PRINCIPLE CLASSIFIED) BY THE COMMITTEE, THE ECONOMIC DIRECTORATE PREPARES A NEW TEXT FROM WHICH ALL CLASSIFIED INFORMATION WILL HAVE BEEN DELETED. THIS NEW DOCUMENT IS THEN SUBMITTED FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE COMMITTEE, WHICH DECIDES HOW AND TO WHOM IT SHOULD BE CIRCULATED.

2. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE IN TIME FOR THE MARCH 4 ECONADS MEETING, WHEN THIS WILL BE DISCUSSED AGAIN. STREATOR

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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